

RECOGNIZING THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE CHAMPION LUDLOW HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER TEAM

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of the 1991 Ludlow High School boys soccer team. The Ludlow boys soccer team reclaimed the Massachusetts State title last November by trouncing their opponents from Needham 4-0. The Ludlow team finished the season with a record of 17-3-1, but their final game was their most impressive as they dominated Needham from start to finish. This team, like many Ludlow teams before it, played a skillful soccer style which allowed them to outplay virtually every opponent they faced.

Ludlow has been the heart of Western Massachusetts soccer for as long as anyone can remember. The town residents follow the high school teams with a fanaticism rarely seen in the United States, and during the 1990s, they have had a lot to cheer about. The Lions won the Western Massachusetts title five of the last six years, and won the state title in 1995, 1997, and 1999.

The success of the Ludlow Boys Soccer team can be linked directly to the coach. Head Coach Tony Goncalves has built a dominating program centered around skill and class. His knowledge of soccer is unparalleled in Western Massachusetts, and his coaching style is one that commands respect from his players, his opponents, and his fellow coaches. Coach Goncalves is quick to praise others, he is gracious in victory or defeat, and he is an inexhaustible resource for young coaches. He is the center of, and driving force behind, the success of the Ludlow High School boys soccer team.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to recognize here the players, coaches, and managers of the Ludlow High School boys soccer team of 1999. The players include Seniors Jonathon Witowski, Jason Chelo, Jason Dacruz, Justin Bruneau, John Reilly, Dave Fonseca, Dave Gwozdz, Rich Zina, Kevin Crespo, and Dan S. Santos, and Juniors Joe Jorge, Jason Devlin, Steve Jorge, Helder Pires, Mike Pio, Brian Cochenour, Chris Chelo, Manny Goncalves, Tim Romanski, Ray Cheria, Paul Martins, and Dennis Carvalho. The team is led by Head Coach Tony Goncalves, long time Assistant Coach Jack Vilaca, assistants, Greg Kolodziej and Jonathon Cavallo, and managers Audrey Vilaca, Sarah Russell, Jennifer Russell, and Jillian Dube. Mr. Speaker, once again I am proud and honored to congratulate the 1999 Massachusetts State Champion boys soccer team from Ludlow High School in Ludlow, Massachusetts.

HONORING THE 60TH BIRTHDAY OF
REVEREND VALENTINE H.
SHEPPARD

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Valentine H. Sheppard. Rev-

erend Sheppard's compassionate spirit touches all of those who know him.

Through vision, diligence and dedication he founded Hebron Baptist Church in 1983. Seventeen years later the Church is a thriving house of worship and love. He is not only the founder and pastor of Hebron Baptist Church, but also an active member of the Brooklyn community.

Reverend Sheppard is a past-president of the Baptist Pastor's and Church's Union of Brooklyn and Long Island. He is the program chairperson for their Annual Emancipation Day Service and Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance Service. He has held several offices in the Eastern Baptist Association and is a member of the executive board of the Hampton University Minister's Conference. Reverend Sheppard is a graduate of Nzazrene Theological Seminary of Trinidad and is in his 40th year in the ministry. He is a graduate of the American Institute of Banking and a winner of their Regional Public Speaking contest for 3 consecutive years. He served as chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Roundtable Senior Citizen Center of Brooklyn.

Reverend Valentine H. Sheppard is the father of three children and the spiritual father of countless others. Mr. Speaker, I would like you along with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to join me honoring Reverend Valentine H. Sheppard on his 60th birthday.

HONORING RICHARD DESILVA

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Richard A. DeSilva, a businessman and community leader in northern New Jersey who has made many contributions to our local schools, economy and quality of life. Mr. DeSilva is a hard-working entrepreneur who has found success and, in the tradition of many successful businessmen before him, has chosen to "give back" to the community. He is one of our outstanding citizens and a role model for our young people.

Mr. DeSilva, the owner of Liberty Subaru Inc., in Oradell, New Jersey, last month received the Time Magazine Quality Dealer Award, presented each year jointly by Time Magazine and the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. Last year, he received the All-Star Dealer Award from the American International Automobile Dealers Association. Both of these awards are presented not just in recognition of excellence in automobile sales and service but also for excellence in community service.

Mr. DeSilva started in the retail automobile business as a teenager working at the Ford dealership where his father was the service manager. He graduated from Bowling Green State University with a degree in marketing in 1974 and sold new cars for a short period before opening a used-car dealership in Paterson. His "big break" came in 1976, when he and his brother acquired a franchise from Subaru. The brothers started off selling an average 14 cars a month, but the dealership now sells nearly 1,100 a year.

As might be expected, Mr. DeSilva has been active within the automobile industry. He is a member of the AIADA board of directors,

has been on the Subaru National Dealer Advisory Board since 1989 and has served as chairman three times. He is also active with the New Jersey Coalition of Automotive Retailers.

It has been Mr. DeSilva's level of involvement in his community, however, that has brought him recognition. Mr. DeSilva and his wife, Wendy, a grammar school and physical education teacher, have been involved in the Mahwah public school system for many years. Mr. DeSilva coached wrestling and was active in the Mahwah Sports Booster program while their sons were in school. In 1991 and 1992, he chaired the demographics committee for the Mahwah Schools facilities Ad Hoc Committee, a group charged with studying future student enrollment and making recommendations to the school board. In 1995, he was selected to finish the term of a former school board member. He was elected to his first full, three-year term on the board in 1996 and re-elected last year.

Mr. Speaker, Rick DeSilva is an outstanding member of our community. He is a successful businessman who helps drive the local economy. He is an active and respected member of the local school board, helping guide the education and future of our youth. And he has been an involved parent, coaching young people on the athletic field and instilling the spirit of teamwork that is so crucial to success in the adult world. He has been recognized by his peers in his own industry. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join in that recognition by congratulating him on the work he has done and wishing him the best in the future.

REMARKS OF SENATOR JOSEPH I.
LIEBERMAN AT THE 48TH NA-
TIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday morning the 48th National Prayer Breakfast was held here in Washington. This annual event dates to 1952 when the first gathering was held to pray for President-elect Dwight Eisenhower and his administration. Each year since 1952, the President and Vice President, Cabinet Secretaries, Members of Congress, international government leaders, clergy and others have met to reaffirm their faith and to seek divine guidance in making critical decisions.

At the National Prayer Breakfast last week, our colleague from the Senate, JOSEPH LIEBERMAN of Connecticut, was one of the principal speakers, and his remarks were outstanding. Mr. Speaker, I ask that Senator LIEBERMAN's remarks be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues in the House to give his speech careful and thoughtful attention.

REMARKS OF SENATOR JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN
AT THE 48TH NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

Mr. President and Mrs. Clinton, Speaker Hastert, Reverend Clergy, Nuncio Montalvo, Dr. Graham, General and Mrs. Ralston, other head table guests and honored guests in the hall, ladies and gentlemen: To each and every one of you I say, Blessed be they who come in the name of the Lord.

This morning, in this place, this very temporal city comes together to reach up to touch the timeless. It brings to mind the story of the man who is blessed to be able to speak with G-d, and in awe of the Lord's freedom from human constraints of time and space, he asks: "Lord, what is a second like to you?"

And G-d answers, "A second to me is like a thousand years."

The man then asks, "And Lord, what is a penny like to you?"

"To me," the Lord declares, "a penny is a like a million dollars."

The man pauses, thinks for a minute, and then asks, "Lord, would you give me a penny?"

And G-d answers, "I will. In a second."

I am honored to have been asked to speak to you this morning, but as the story shows, I proceed with a profound sense of my own human limitations.

I want to begin by talking with you about the weekly Senate Prayer Breakfasts—those still-small gatherings that have, along with their counterpart in the House, spawned this magnificent National Prayer Breakfast as well as similar meetings in every American state and so many countries around the world.

When I was first invited years ago to the Senate Prayer Breakfast, I found a lot of excuses not to go. Some were good—like my reluctance to leave my family so early on a weekday morning. But some excuses were not-so-good—like my apprehension that the Senate Prayer Breakfast was really a Christian breakfast and that, because I am Jewish, I might feel awkward or my presence might inhibit my Christian friends in their expressions of faith. I was wrong on both counts.

The regular participants in the breakfast, and our wonderful chaplain, Lloyd Ogilvie, persisted and finally convinced me to attend by employing a tactic that usually works with us politicians: they asked me to be the speaker.

That was a very important morning in my now 11 years in Washington. We began with prayer and readings from the bible and then called on the chaplain, who told us about some people in the Senate family we might want to pray for, because they were ill or had lost loved ones. Then it was my turn. I spoke about the Passover holiday and answered some very thoughtful questions. At the end, we joined hands and prayed together.

All in all, it lasted less than an hour, but I was moved that morning. More than that, I felt at home.

Today, I can tell you that the weekly Prayer Breakfasts have become the time in my hectic life in the Senate when I feel most at home, most tied to a community. Because we are at those breakfasts not as Senators; not as Republicans or Democrats, or liberals or conservatives; not even particularly as Christians or Jews. We are there as men and women of faith linked by a bond that transcends all the other descriptors and dividers—our shared love of G-d and acceptance of His Sovereignty over us, and our common commitment to try to live according to the universal moral laws of the Lord.

I pray that all of you who have come here this morning feel those same unifying, humanizing, elevating sentiments. And I also pray, as we begin this new session of Congress, that your presence will inspire those of us who are privileged to serve in government to appreciate the truth that is so palpable at these breakfasts: What unites us is much greater than what divides us.

The work that needs to be done for the people we in government serve will best be done if we work together, and we will work

together best if we understand that we are blessed not only to be citizens of the same beloved country, but children of the same awesome G-d.

Praying for the Lord's guidance and strength as we begin a new Congress has been the traditional purpose of this National Prayer Breakfast. But there is another stated aspiration and that is "to reaffirm our faith and renew the dedication of our Nation and ourselves to God and his purposes." I want to speak with you about that second goal this morning because I believe it is critically important at this moment in our national history when our economic life is thriving, but our moral life is stagnating. Although so much is so good in our country today, there are other ways in which we desperately need to do better. There is compelling evidence, for example, that our culture has coarsened; that our standards of decency and civility have eroded; and that the traditional sources of values in our society—faith, family, and community—are in a life-and-death struggle with the darker forces of immorality, inhumanity, and greed.

From the beginning of our existence, we Americans have known where to turn in such times of moral challenge. "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people," John Adams wrote. George Washington warned us never to "indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion." That is why we pledge our allegiance to "one nation under G-d." And why faith has played such a central role in our nation's history. Great spiritual awakenings have brought strength and purpose to the American experience. In the 18th Century, the first Great Awakening put America on the road to independence, freedom, and equality. In the 19th Century, the Second Awakening gave birth to the abolitionist movement, which removed the stain of slavery from American life and made the promise of equality more real. And in the early 20th Century, a third religious awakening led to great acts of justice and charity toward the poor and the exploited, which expressed themselves ultimately in a progressive burst of social legislation.

In recent years, I believe, there have been clear signs of a new American spiritual awakening. This one began in the hearts of millions of Americans who felt threatened by the vulgarity and violence in our society, and turned to religion as the best way to rebuild a wall of principle and purpose around themselves and their families. Christians flocked to their churches, Jews to their synagogues, Muslims to their Mosques, and Buddhists and Hindus to their temples. Others chose alternate spiritual movements as their way to values, order, and peace of mind. It has been as if millions of modern men and women were hearing the ancient voice of the prophet Hosea saying, "Thou hast stumbled in thine iniquity . . . Therefore, turn to thy G-d . . . keep mercy and justice."

This morning, I want to ask all who are here to think about how we can strengthen and expand the current spiritual awakening so it not only inspires us individually and within our separate faith communities, but also renews and elevates the moral and cultural life of our nation?

Let me suggest that we begin by talking more to each other about our beliefs and our values, talking in the spirit of this prayer breakfast—open, generous, and mutually respectful—so that we may strengthen each other in our common quest. The Catholic theologian, Michael Novak, has written wisely:

"Americans are starved for good conversations about important matters of the human spirit. In Victorian England, religious devotion was not a forbidden topic of conversa-

tion, sex was. In America today, the inhibitions are reversed."

So let us break through those inhibitions to talk together, study together, and pray together, remembering the call in Chronicles to "give thanks to G-d, to declare His name and make His acts known among the peoples . . . to sing to Him and speak of all His wonders."

We who believe and observe have an additional opportunity and responsibility to reach out to those who may neither believe nor observe, to reassure them that we share with them the core values of America, that our faith is not inconsistent with their freedom, and that our values do not make us intolerant of their differences.

Discussion, study, and prayer are only the beginning, because we know that in the end we will be judged by our behavior. In the Koran, the Prophet says: "So woe to the praying ones who are unmindful of their prayer—and refrain from acts of kindness." Isaiah summarizes the Torah in two acts: "Keep justice and do righteousness." And the Beatitudes inspire and direct us: "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled; blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see G-d. Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the children of G-d."

Turning faith into action is particularly appropriate in this millennial year, whose significance will be determined not by turning a page on our calendars at home or work, but by turning a page on the calendar of our hearts and deeds.

To make a difference, we must take our religious beliefs and values—our sense of justice, of right and wrong—into America's cultural and communal life.

In fact, that has begun to happen. In our nation's public places, including our schools, people are finding constitutional ways to honor and express faith in G-d. In the entertainment industry, a surge of persistent public pressure—a revolt of the revolted—has prodded at least some executives to acknowledge their civic and moral responsibility to our society and our children. It's even happening in government, where we have come together in recent years under President Clinton's leadership to embrace some of our best values by enacting new laws and programs that help the poor by reforming welfare, that protect the innocent by combating crime, and that restore responsibility by balancing our budget.

In communities across America, people of faith are working to repair some of the worst effects of our damaged moral and cultural life, like teenage pregnancy, family disintegration, drug dependency, and homelessness. Charitable giving is up, more of the young are turning to community service, and because our economy is booming, or perhaps in spite of it, people are finding they need more than material wealth to achieve happiness. They want spiritual fulfillment, cultural elevation, more time with their families, and more confidence that they are making a difference for the better.

So there is reason in this millennial year to go forward from this 48th National Prayer Breakfast with hope, ready to serve God with gladness by transforming these good beginnings into America's next Great Spiritual Awakening—one that will secure the moral future of our nation and raise up the quality of life of all our people.

"Let your light shine before others," Jesus said, "so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

If we do, then in time, as Isaiah prophesied: "Every valley will be exalted, and every mountain and hill will be made low. The crooked will become straight, and the

rough places smooth. For the earth will be full of the glory of the Lord."

TRIBUTE TO LT. COL. EARL SMITH, U.S. ARMY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, as we carry out the business of the American people here in Washington, we are occasionally fortunate enough to get to know some truly outstanding individual Americans. Today, I would like to mention one such person, who has become a good friend to many of us.

It is a great pleasure to rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Earl Smith, who is retiring from the U.S. Army on April 1st of this year after 22 years of service to our nation.

Along with many other Members, I came to know Lt. Col. Smith in his capacity as Congressional Liaison Officer to the House of Representatives. Lt. Col. Smith and I have traveled to many places together, where I have always found him to define the Army's values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage.

The American diplomat George Kennan wrote that "only he is capable of exercising leadership over others who is capable of some real degree of mastery over himself." Lt. Col. Smith is a living example of the truth of that statement.

Mr. Speaker, Lt. Col. Smith distinguished himself in numerous command and staff positions overseas, as well as in the continental United States. His career began as an Infantry Rifle Platoon Leader in West Berlin, Germany, during the final decade of the Cold War. As recently as 1996, he served in Bosnia as an Operations Officer on the Joint/Combined Staff for the military headquarters responsible for implementing the Dayton Peace Agreement.

The American position in the world—that of lone superpower—is due to the sacrifices made by Lt. Col. Smith and men and women like him. Without their selfless dedication, America would not enjoy the peace and prosperity it is blessed with today.

We all should congratulate Lt. Col. Smith on a career marked by the finest personal qualities and professional excellence. We wish Earl and his wife, Arnette, our best on this important milestone and good luck in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAMPION LUDLOW HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of the 1999 Ludlow High School girls soccer team. The Ludlow girls soccer team won the program's third Western Massachusetts title last year by defeating defending state champion Cathedral High School. The Lions de-

feated Central Massachusetts Champion Shrewsbury en route to the state final match, where they fell just short of their goal.

The Ludlow girls soccer team finished the year with a record of 19–2–1. Ludlow was able to dominate a tough league in Western Massachusetts in 1999 by employing a highly skillful style of play. A team that was tough when it needed to be, Ludlow was capable of outclassing most of its opponents. As a result of their high class style, the Lions enjoyed the fervent support of the residents of the Town of Ludlow throughout the season.

Head Coach Jim Calheno has built a very successful program at Ludlow High School. Coach Calheno is well-respected in the coaching community and his team is duly feared. The Ludlow talent pool runs very deep, and the Lions are certain to be the team to beat in 2000. Two All-America selections, Liz Dyjak and Stephanie Santos, are among a group of talented Juniors who will be looking to claim the state title next season.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to recognize here the players, coaches, and managers of the 1999 Ludlow High School girls soccer team. The Seniors are: Melissa Dominique, Sandy Salvador, Angela Goncalves, Jen Crespo, Marcy Bousquet, Lynsey Calheno, Jenn Genovevo, and Leana Alves. The Juniors are: Nicole Gebo, Lindsay Robillard, Lindsay Haluch, Kara Williamson, Sarah Davis, Liz Dyjak, Stephanie Santos, Tina Santos, and Jessica Vital. The Sophomores are: Michele Goncalves, Lindsey Palatino, and Kristine Goncalves. The Freshmen are: Natalie Gebo, Lauren Pereira, Beth Cochenour, Darcie Rickson, and Amy Rodrigues. The Head Coach is Jim Calheno, and he is assisted by Saul Chelo, Nuno Pereira, Melanie Pszeniczny, and Mario Monsalve. The managers are Melissa Santos and Elizabeth Barrow.

Mr. Speaker, once again, allow me to congratulate the Ludlow High School girls soccer team on a season well played. I wish them the best of luck for the 2000 season.

TRIBUTE TO LEWANDA DENISE MILLER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lewanda Denise Miller, a woman described by those who know her as a Christian, a family person, an educator, a community helper, a mentor, and a friend.

As the daughter of Roy Lee and Mildred Miller, and as a lifelong member of St. Paul Community Baptist Church, Lewanda credits her southern, Christian upbringing and family, as sources of strength that have helped to teach her ways to help others.

In 1993, Lewanda received her Bachelor's Degree with SUNY College at Old Westbury. While studying Accounting and Business, Lewanda quietly yearned to teach. In her last year of undergraduate study, she applied for a teaching license. Immediately after graduation, she obtained her temporary license in Business. She taught many programs at Boys and Girls High School. Two years later, Lewanda enrolled in Brooklyn College's graduate program to become an English teacher. After

studying on an undergraduate and graduate level, she successfully completed her studies in 1999. Lewanda graduates this millennium with her Masters of Arts in Secondary Education-English. During this time, she obtained provisional certification in English and Business. Lewanda still mentors and tutors students daily at Boys and Girls High School.

Professionally, Ms. Miller has worked on several committees to improve the academic experience for her students. She worked on the Curriculum Interdisciplinary Team, staff developer of ELA Regents Curriculum, and taught one of the Saturday School programs at Boys and Girls High School for the last five years.

Since 1998, Lewanda has been a member of The Women's Caucus, a volunteer organization of women who work closely with me on community activities, and the Interfaith Medical Auxiliary.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing positive young role models, like Lewanda Denise Miller.

IN CELEBRATION OF LUNAR NEW YEAR 4698, THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2000

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join members of the Asian American Business Development Center in celebration of the Lunar New Year, the largest and most festive of all celebrations in most of Asia. The Lunar New Year is a time when families and friends congregate, when social bonds are strengthened, and life celebrated.

The celebration of the Lunar New Year, Mr. Speaker, underscores many commonalities throughout our diverse cultures, like an appreciation for the cyclical nature of life and the need for reunion and renewal. I wish everyone in America and throughout Asia who celebrates this occasion a very happy New Year full of good fortune and good health.

This Lunar New Year 4698, which falls on February 5, is a special one marking the Year of the Dragon. In Chinese mythology, the Dragon is a symbol of supreme power, controlling the wind and rain to benefit the earth or, sometimes, unleashing a destructive typhoon.

Dragons, as we know, are found in Western mythology as well, carved on the helm of Viking ships and woven into children's stories about European Princesses and gallant knights. The Dragon, then, is very much a part of our world culture as is the celebration of the annual renewal of life.

Mr. Speaker, today in New York City, I joined the Asian American Business Development Center in celebrating the Lunar New Year. The Lunar New Year is a triumphant occasion for millions of people throughout the world. Mr. Speaker, I ask my fellow Members of Congress to join me and the Asian American Business Development Center in celebration of this special holiday.